

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

A QUESTION ANSWERED

DEAR EDITOR: My attention was attracted by a letter written to you and published in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for August, on the subject of "Just What is Required of the Nurse in a Private Home." I am a subscriber of the JOURNAL and also a graduate nurse. My opinion is the same as M. E. of "Sunny Tennessee."

I think any nurse who has good sound common sense, and has gone through a course of hospital training of three years will have at least enough sense to adapt herself to the surroundings and conditions of any home she may enter and know what her duty there is, and not "sniff" if it is necessary to do menial labor.

I have been doing private nursing only two years, and I think I have learned what is required of a nurse in a private home.

I have been sent to homes where I did not need to do what I thought a nurse on private duty should not do. And I have also been in homes where I had all the household duties to attend. At one place I nursed a patient who was continually fretting about the lamps not being kept clean. She asked the servant, her daughter and grand-daughter to clean them, every day for three days, which they neglected to do. Finally, to keep the patient from fretting and being nervous, I cleaned the lamps, and cleaned them every day for five weeks. The daughter did not object to my doing so.

In another home the patient, the room, and every thing else about the place were so dirty, I had to sweep, scrub and dust before I could even see what to do for the patient or how to take care of her.

When a nurse goes to a home and there are servants to do the household duties, she should do strictly what has been taught by her superintendent of nurses at her training school.

I do not believe the woman who wrote the article in the *New York Sun* and conducts a high class employment bureau knew anything about what was required of a nurse on private duty. I believe I voice the sentiment of the nurses of Texas or any nurse that has had any practical experience on private nursing.

I also noticed in Hospital and Training-School Notes, that one of

the large hospitals in Brooklyn had accepted four young Indian girls with "good manners" and an education. Let us hope they were at least educated. I really do think all hospitals and schools are accepting nurses with less refinement and education than they formerly did.

Sincerely yours,

P. L. S.

SUGGESTIONS TO CORRESPONDENTS

DEAR EDITOR: It is no doubt hard for others to sympathize as we should in both cases of M. B. B. in the April number and E. B. U. in the July number,—both nurses certainly had a very unpleasant time,—and not easy to understand, for I have never come in contact with members of our own profession who, to my knowledge, have done such unprincipled work as those nurses who first had charge of these cases. Though I know there are, unfortunately, both doctors and nurses that seem to lack honesty, thank God they grow fewer each year. I should like to suggest to M. B. B. and E. B. U. that if they are not already members of their own state or county association that they immediately become such and then take such trouble as they speak of to their county board, and have these others expelled, if they are also members; if not, have them reprimanded in some dignified way. One's own county association is the board to which she should carry these minor troubles. I do not believe such dishonest nurses figure very often in our life. We are not all perfect, but I believe almost every one of us has her patient's welfare in her heart, and I believe if a nurse, already graduated from a good school, should be found to do otherwise than what is honest and true, her diploma should be demanded. However, if they were, as I hope, untrained nurses, then we can say nothing but that we are sorry for their ignorance.

T.

A PROTEST

DEAR EDITOR: The AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for July contains in its report of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States the following:

"A letter was read from Mrs. Shaw, president of the Woman's Suffrage League, asking the Association to endorse the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, The thinking women of America are striving more earnestly than ever before to be a helpful part of the people, in the firm belief that men and women together compose a democracy, and that